

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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**REP. HERSETH STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

May 25, 2005, Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth today commented on the release of additional information regarding the Pentagon's recommendation to close Ellsworth Air Force Base:

"This additional information is long overdue. My staff and I will work closely with the rest of the delegation and with the Ellsworth Task Force to analyze this new and necessary information, which will assist in making the best case possible to save Ellsworth from closure."

"This release of data does not affect our separate legislative effort to slow down the process until serious questions have been answered regarding our overall military infrastructure and operations. With more than 120,000 soldiers currently deployed, a pending realignment of overseas bases, and a comprehensive quadrennial defense review due next year, there are simply too many moving pieces and unanswered questions to complete this domestic BRAC process and close bases here at home."

"Simply put, we need to slow this process down to ensure we don't make critical mistakes when we are deciding our national security and military strategy."

Herseth has sponsored legislation in the House to postpone the 2005 round of defense base closures and realignments. Herseth's bill is identical to legislation introduced by Senators Thune and Johnson.

The bill would postpone the BRAC recommendations until one year after the last of these actions occurs: the recommendations of the Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure are implemented by the Secretary of Defense; a substantial number of American troops return from Iraq; the House and Senate Armed Services Committees receive the quadrennial defense review; implementation of the National Maritime Security Strategy; and implementation of the Homeland Defense and Civil Support directive.

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